

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 11, 18, 20, and 22 are presently active. Claims 2, 4-10, 12-17, 19, 21, and 23-39 are withdrawn. Claims 1 and 18 have been presently amended.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 3, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 3, 11, 18, 20, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,367,412 to Ramaswamy et al.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the courtesy of Examiner Arancibia to discuss this case on February 23, 2007 with Applicants' representative during which time the issues in the outstanding Office Action were discussed as substantially summarized hereinafter.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to recite a processing element for a semiconductor manufacturing system. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection has been overcome.

Regarding Ramaswamy et al., the liners in Ramaswamy et al. are porous ceramic liners. As discussed during the interview, these liners are disposed on interior walls of the dielectric coupling power into the plasma systems disclosed therein. During the interview, Examiner Arancibia pointed out the incorporated teachings in Ramaswamy et al. of Lu et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,904,778). However, as discussed during the interview, neither Ramaswamy et al. nor Lu et al. disclose or suggest a polymeric liner, as presently defined and as described for example in Applicants' numbered paragraph [0050] of the filed application. Indeed, the teachings of Ramaswamy et al. for use of porous ceramic liners for reducing "sputtering and

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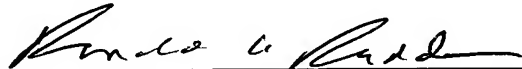
localized heating" (see col. 5, lines 3-4) teach away from the present invention. Furthermore, there are no teachings in Lu et al that would overcome the deficiencies of Ramaswamy et al.

Given this understanding, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 18 (and the claims dependent therefrom) patentably define over the cited art of record. Accordingly, it is requested that Claims 2, 4-10, 12-17, 19, 21, and 23-26 (which depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 18) be rejoined and passed to issuance.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussions, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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